GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2969
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2001
INTERVIEW OF STEPHEN HAWKINGS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan announced to telecast live Prof. StephenHawking`s Albert Einstien lecture in New Delhi on January 17,2001 but failed to do so;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the matter has been inquired into and responsibility fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): The lecture by Professor Stephen Hawking, world renowned Physicist, in NewDelhi on 17th January, 2001, was organized by the Centre for Philosophy and Foundationof Science. The telecast rights of the said event were with Discovery Channel.DD approached Discovery Channel and obtained the permission for telecast and thereafterissued a press release about the live telecast of the said lecture. Discovery Channelwithdrew the permission for the live telecast on the evening of 16th January, 2001 on the grounds that the organizers had not agreed to the live telecast. However, DD madespecial arrangements with the Discovery Channel to obtain a recording of the said lecture and this was telecast on the News Channel on 18th January, 2001 at 10 PM and on DD-bn 21st January, 2001 at 7 PM.

(c)&(d): Do not arise.